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News Release

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Michael B. Cahir, District Director, Washington District Office, Department of Labor, announced the federal indictment yesterday of Barbara Ann Fields, age 42, of Albemarle, Virginia. Fields is charged with one count of embezzlement of union funds. She faces a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

The indictment alleges that Fields was the Financial Secretary for the Petersburg-based Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union, Local 255-T. The indictment alleges that during the period from June 1997 until July 2001, Fields embezzled \$10,557.79 by cashing union checks and making cash withdrawals from the Local 255-T checking account. To conceal her embezzlement, Fields forged the signature of the former Local 255-T president on some of the unauthorized checks.

The indictment follows an investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Roderick C. Young.